

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva,

On behalf of Colorado Conservation Alliance (CCA), we write in support of the Trust the Science Act (H.R. 764) to end the federally protected status of the gray wolf. Gray wolves are not endangered, and they are only still listed because of a legal maneuver out of a California court. This legislation from the bench was wrong, and the notion gray wolves are an endangered species is wrong; and these two wrongs don't create a "right" but do effectively impact the rights of hunters and ranchers across the nation.

CCA was formed to unite hunters and ranchers in opposition to Colorado's voter-approved wolf introduction, and to keep close watch over the process which was passed with the thinnest of margins. In Colorado ballot initiative 114 will bring wolves into the state whether the wolf is federally listed or not. CCA's position is the wolf's listing status is irrelevant to the federal government's obligation to perform a full NEPA before allowing an unnaturally occurring (human manipulated) group of wolves to take up residence in our federal forests.

If an outfitter wants to move camp within a federal forest, they're required to do a NEPA; and a full NEPA should also be required before wolves are moved into our federal forests—even if that red carpet is initially rolled out across private lands. Pro-wolf advocates have been stating for years the federal forests in Colorado will be a perfect habitat for the 114 wolves, and while CCA does not agree, CCA does fully expect the U.S. Government will perform a full NEPA before allowing Colorado's Governor to relocate wolves onto our forest lands.

The development of a wolf management plan with fair compensation and conditions for lethal take will be a necessary part of a United States Forest Service NEPA process; a process which need not be clouded by conversation over an endangered species listing which isn't merited. Please approve the Trust the Science Act bill to be forwarded for a vote of Congress, help end the invalid listing of gray wolves, and clear the way for the NEPA work to be done by the USFS before wolves are imported into Colorado.

Sincerely,



Mike Clark
Director/Founder

